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THE MONTANA MAVERICK

THE BIG SKY COUNTRY

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THE MONTANA MAVERICK

A publication of Warm Springs State Hospital, Warm Springs, Montana

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QUEST FOR SOLUTION OF

LEGAL-PSYCHIATRIC PROBLEMS RELATING TO HOSPITALIZATION

OF MENTALLY ILL PERSONS

On the basis of my personal observations made while working in various psychiatric settings, I submit there are two major problems existing in the relationship between law and mental illness. The first problem concerns the procedures for hospitalization of the mentally ill. The second problem involves the legal terminology used in connection with mental illness. On the one hand, some state statutes affecting the hospitalization of the mentally ill are of ancient vintage and inadequate for protecting the legal and constitutional rights of the patient. On the other hand, the legal terminology (for example, words like "insane" and "commitment"), although steeped in tra-- ditional legal meaning, is stigmatic and anachronistic. The terminology and prodedures relative to hospitalization for mental illness sometimes may connote arrest and punishment for being mentally ill. How can solutions to these two problems be found? Are there goals toward which the legal and psychiatric professions should strive?

In my opinion, the following goals, if expressed in the form of legal statutes, would greatly improve the relationship between law and mental illness:

1. Mental illness should be viewed as an illness rather than a crime against society.

2. Terminology such as "insanity" and "commitment" should be replaced with less stigmatic terminology.

3. Voluntary admissions should be encouraged whenever feasible.

4. Involuntary admissions should be commensurate with the protection of the civil liberties of the patient, and procedures for implementing the involuntary admission should be minimally traumatic.

5. The legal concept of "incapacity" or "incompetence" and the need for a guardian should be separate from the concept of the need for hospitalization.

6. Civil and property rights of the patient should be protected during the period of hospitalization.

Goals alone are not sufficient. There must be methods for developing legal-psychiatric communication and for translating legal-psychiatric goals into appropriate legislation. Collaboration between the legal and psychiatric professions may be largely a matter of motivation induced by the community. The community can encourage, support and even demand communication between the two professions to achieve renovative goals. In certain states legal-psychiatric collaboration has occurred in the following contexts:

1. Judicial Council committees have been appointed for the purpose of of revising the substantive and procedural provisions of the mental

hospitalization laws.

2. Efforts have been made to bring about the mutual interaction and education of the legal and psychiatric professions. For example, psychiatrists have begun teaching in state law schools, and law professors have begun teaching in the medical schools.

3. Bar associations have appointed committees to explore the issues of legal terminology and admissions procedures with the intent of simplifying the laws, removing obsolete material, and stating each its impact clear.

Suggestion of change in well established laws and attitudes influencing hospitalization of mentally ill persons may be somewhat threating in aspect. Nevertheless, some states such as Kansas have felt the need for change and have implemented innovations in the laws affecting the mentally ill. Kansas legislation, for example, makes the distinction between a person's "incapacity" to formulate responsible decisions concerning either the management of his person or his estate, and the mental illness itself. Kansas legislation also replaces stigmatic words like "insane" and "commitment" with such terms as "mentally ill" and "admission." Furthermore, the legislation allows for and involuntarily admitted patient to retain his civil liberties, and only through separate guardianship proceedings would these liberties be suspended. Such legislation is one laudable example of the quest for solutions to legal-psychiatric problems because it translates into legal statutes some of the goals suggested for improving the relationship between law and mental illness. While giving recognition to the fact that the laws established in other states may not meet the needs of Montanans, I believe the progress in mental health legislation of other states may offer constructive guidelines for re-vision of our own statutes when and if the community feel change is required.

Richard E. Fanestil

SOURCES:

1. House Bill 905, Kansas

2. House Bill 902, Kansas

3. Montana laws pertaining to hospitalization of the mentally ill

4. Summary report of Kansas Conference on mental illness and health

5. Encyclopedia Americana

6. Psychiatric Justice, book by Szasz

7. Psychiatry for Lawyers, 3rd Edition, by Dr. Melvin Selzer

THE FAILURE SYNDROME

Sometime ago I ran across an article that I have kept and referred to quite often. It was about a phenomenon called The Failure Syndrome and I wish that each Maverick reader who recognizes this as one of his traits would do his very best to take a serious look at what it is doing to him and make every effort to change accordingly.

The failure syndrome is the combination of forces which contribute to a patient's consistent will to fail. It is not an easy thing to recognize in some individuals and many are chosen as good candidates for rehabilitation. Usually, the patient is unaware that the condition is present and he may verbalize a strong desire to rehabilitate himself, but everything he does seems to indicate differently.

It is of tremendous importance for therapists to recognize the existence of the failure syndrome in the patient and the need for joint effort between hospital, community agencies and individuals to minimize or eliminate it.

Any threat to the patient's feeling of security may start the failure syndrome in motion. The patient may have adapted to the hospital setting and sees it as satisfactorily meeting his needs for self-preservation. Anything that might threaten this security is combatted. The greatest threat of all is discharge planning, which sometime directly involves Vocational Rehabilitation, and I am sure a number of the clients whom I have interviewed as a threat to their security.

Following is a list of warning signals to the existence of the failure syndrome:

1. The patient insists he is doing poorly despite the fact that his therapist and others report that he is performing satisfactorily.
2. The patient says yes to everything you ask him to do and then proceeds to do what he pleases. In some cases he becomes irritable and even hostile while at the same time he expresses delight at the prospect of leaving the hospital.
3. The patient who is overly compliant and dependent upon the therapist. In most cases if this pattern of unreasonable dependency is not changed, failure in community adjustment is the most likely outcome.
4. The patient who persists in unrealistic goals.
5. The patient with strong guilt feelings because he is making good progress. He can't figure out why everybody is so good to him when he is not a good risk.

Not all patients are plagued by the failure syndrome. There is a small minority who have a strong drive to succeed and who will do so, very often in spite of our "red tape", opposition and, sometimes, misdirections. The prevalence of the failure syndrome, and the fact that some patients succeed even when the odds are against them, is a striking reminder that we still do not have all of the answers when it comes to rehabilitating mental patients.

Charles F. McCarthy, Counselor
Vocational Rehabilitation Department

COUNSELOR RETIRES

Kay Knowles, who for the past nine years has been in charge of the women alcoholics, announced that she will retire from active duty effective June 1. The news of her retirement is received with regret by those of us who have worked with her and benefitted from her wisdom and knowledge. Her wit blended with her deep compassion and understanding made an outstanding personality to deal with the problem of alcoholism. Countless citizens, both male and female are leading a better life today because of having known her and benefitting for her counsel. Throughout the years, night or day she made herself available to lend a helping hand to those in need. Many of her ideas and suggestions became part of the A.T. & R. program and she will have and important part in the history of the program. We share with her many friends both in and out of the hospital in wishing her a happy and contented retirement and may GOD grant her the serenity to enjoy the many blessings she so richly deserves.

Mrs. Joy Nash who will replace Kay Knowles as the Woman Counselor is not new in the field of alcoholism. For many years she has devoted her time and effort in the Helena area in Community and other efforts dealing with the problem. She has been guest speaker as well as a participant on many committees throughout the State. She knows the problem and will be a welcome addition to the A.T. & R. Staff.

Ed Gendle

COFFEE FIRMS OFFER OPPORTUNITY FOR OBTAINING NEEDED EQUIPMENT

Maxwell House Coffee has developed a program with one of the leading play equipment manufacturers, Creative Playthings, Inc., in which innerseals from Instant Maxwell House Coffee can be turned in for special toys and equipment.

The M.J.B. Company will provide fully-automatic percolators, ideal units for this hospital, in exchange for metal tops from cans of Regular M.J.B. Coffee, labels from jars of Instant M.J.B. and box tops from M.J.B. tea.

Both of these programs offer excellent opportunities to obtain needed equipment for Warm Springs State Hospital, with your help. These are good individual or club projects. Won't you save and serve?

Please send your innerseals, metal tops, labels and box tops to:

Warm Springs State Hospital
Attn: Activity Therapies
Warm Springs, Montana

GENERAL LIBRARY OPENS IN MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING

The General Library is now open in the Multipurpose Building from 8:30 A.M. until 12:00 Noon and in the afternoon from 1:00 until 5:00 P.M., Monday through Friday. The library consists of about 2700 books, divided into three sections; namely, 1. Adult Fiction 2. Juvenile Fiction 3. Non-Fiction (Adult and Juvenile).

Although the book collection for the library has been selected with the patient's interests primarily in mind, still a good portion of the library will be of interest to the staff, hospital personnel and their children. Specific requests for a given book or subject matter which is not in the library can be obtained through interlibrary loan by the li-- brian from the Montana State Library in Helena.

For the present, the magazines and newspapers will still be available in the Warren Lounge, but in the near future, the books, magazines and newspapers will all be housed in the General Library.

James Flick

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PUBLIC HEALTH NURSES' ORIENTATION

June 3, 1968 is the first day of a weeks' orientation at Warm Springs State Hospital for eight Public Health Nurses in Montana.

A full comprehensive week beginning with a "Welcome" from Mrs. Ellen Lenihan, R.N., Director of Nursing, and opening talk from Dr. Stanley J. Rogers, Superintendent, on "Montana Mental Health Program and Development" is planned with an evaluation on Friday, June 7th. Miss Monte Kyle, R.N., Consultant, Division of Nursing, Public Health, Helena, will attend the e-valuation session.

Public Health Nurses attending: Margaret Christensen, Havre; Mary Oeleis, Great Falls; Carol Garretson, Hardin; Nola Wallace, Glendive; Ann Clark, Missoula; Mary Patten, Missoula; Charlotte Knaub, Billings; and Cora Lee McDonnell, Billings.

Kay Slezak

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EDUCATIONAL WORKSHOP

The first Annual Educational Workshop sponsored by the Colorado Psy-chiatric Technicians' Association with the cooperation of Colorado State Hospital was held April 17-21, 1968 at Colorado State Hospital in Pueblo, Colorado.

Eleven states were represented, Arigona, California, New Jersey, Idaho, Kansas, Montana, South Dakota, Texas, Vermont, New Mexico and Colorado. Sixty-seven people attended from out of State and 520 from Colorado.

Theme of the workshop was "Psychiatric Techonology in Mental Health." Areas covered, The Role of the Psychiatric Technician in Rehabilitation of

HIGH SCHOOL VOLUNTEER PROGRAM

June 16th twelve teenagers will be heading for Warm Springs, Montana. That's right, 12 students from various Lutheran Churches in Montana will spend a month at Warm Springs State Hospital as volunteers. These students will be registering Sunday evening, June 16th at Our Saviour's Lutheran Church in Anaconda. Pastor Ole Larson is making arrangements for billet.

Miss Ellenore Hetland of Anaconda, a student at Montana State University, who will serve as Chaplain's Assistant, during the summer will accompany and counsel these young people while on the wards. Miss Hetland has served at Warm Springs State Hospital the past two summers and will be the co-ordinator with the unit personnel. The volunteers will have a variety of experiences. They will accompany patients to their meals, attend seminars led by doctors and nurses, as well as have an informative tour of the entire hospital.

The students role will be patient oriented. They will help patients with personal grooming, manicures, hair combing and setting, letter writing and often serve as escorts. They will also entertain the patients with singing, music, games, making bulletin board displays and run errands.

This program is new for Montana but has been carried on in State Institutions elsewhere with a great degree of success. Possibly next summer the number of volunteers accepted will be increased to 25 --30.

Rev. Gene Peisker, First Lutheran Church, Circle, Montana, is making the arrangements with High School Students. We express our thanks and appreciation to him for the concern he has shown for the patients at Warm Springs. Their lives will be brightened by the month long stay of these fine Christian teenagers. We trust also that their lives will be enriched and that each one of the High School Student volunteers will find their stay with us very rewarding. We shall do our best to make it so.

Rev. W.L. Roset,
Chaplain

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WORKSHOP CONT

the Alcoholic and Drug Addict, Treatment of Children, Care of the Aged, Security Treatment Program, Mental Retardaion Program, Total Treatment Program, Family Milieu Approach to Treatment, Recreation, Group Therapy, and Community Services.

Warm Springs State Hospital was represented by three R.N.'s, one Occupational Therapi· , one Activity Aide, one L.P.N., and four Psychiatric Aides. Those attending : Mrs. Lucille Siegle, Mrs. Charlotte Kuffner and Miss Katherine Slezak, R.N.'s, Alan Bull, Activity Aide, Mrs. Gwen Casey, Occupational Therapist, Mrs. Cora Sorum, L.P.N., Mrs. Marie Laughery, George Hoar, Robert Rethke, Russel Algers, Psychiatric Aides.

Katherine Slezak

MEDICAL TECHNOLOGISTS MEET IN MISSOULA

May 23-25, the Montana Society of Medical Technologists had their annual state meeting in Missoula, Montana at which I had the pleasure of attending. This was the biggest and best State meeting I have attended.

The program started on Thursday with a presentation by Ortho-Diagnostics. The primary topic of discussion being a new product, called "Rho Gam." This is probably one of the greatest advances in modern medicine. With this product, proper education of the physicians and parents, Rh babies may never need to happen again.

A panel discussion of the Regional Medical Program sponsored by WICHE followed and dealt with the Federal role in the continuing education of Medical Technologists.

Dr. McClaverty, a pathologist at St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula gave a lecture Friday on "Diagnostic Enzymology" and its useful application in our modern hospital laboratories. I wish there had been more time for this series.

Dr. M.J. Nakamura, professor of Microbiology at the University in Missoula lectured on the role of "Clostridium Perfingens" in food poisoning. Although food poisoning is relatively rare in this country, it is felt that more may be diagnosed correctly if proper steps are taken.

Dr. J. Allen Miller gave a lecture on what is rapidly becoming the newest field unto itself in medicine, "Isotope Chemistry and Scanning." This new field is now commonly referred to on a broad spectrum as "Nuclear Medicine", since it deals exclusively with radioactive material. Dr. John Coe, from the Rocky Mountain Laboratories in Hamilton, lectured on the isotope tagging of globulin particles in Electrophoresis.

Steroid Chemistry was the final topic of the evening, given by Mr. Robert Smith, Biochemist for Pathology Associates in Spokane, Washington.

On Saturday Dr. J.J. Taylor, Assistant Professor of Microbiology at the University of Montana lectured on the isolation and identificatinn of the more common pathological fungi.

The lecture series was capped by Dr. Robert Fouty, Clinical Pathologist, King County Hospital, Spokane and Associate Pathologist of the University of Washington Medical School. Dr. Fouty's talk was "The application of Atomic Absorption in Modern Medicine. Following the lectures was a practical demonstration of one of the newer atomic absorption units, put on by the representatives of the Scientific Supplies Co., Seattle, Washington.

The lecture series was attended by over 70 Medical Technologists from nearly every major hospital laboratory and clinic in the state. At the business meeting which followed, the officers for the coming fiscal year were selected: President-1968-69, William Jones, MT(ASCP) Warm Springs State Hospital; President-Elect, Opal Spradlin, St. Patrick's Hospital, Missoula; Secretary-Treasurer, Lynn Sieble, Great Falls, Montana.

William D. Jones
Medical Technician

STUDENT NURSE NOTES

On March 25, 1968 the 49 student nurses from St. Vincent's School of Nursing, Billings and St. James School of Nursing, Butte, elected class officers for the Spring Quarter. Miss Walters rules as president, assisted by Miss Kerscher, Vice-president, and Mrs. Butler, secretary. Mrs. Sue Barkley works with all as our advisor. These individuals are to be congratulated on their job well done. We would like to extend a special note of thanks to Mrs. Barkley for helping us throughout this quarter.

Spring brings new life to the wards. Besides being invaded by the ambitious class of student nurses, Bolton, Mitchell and Receiving Hospital have been engaging in a round of early picnics. At these informal grass-ins, organized activities consisting of volley ball, twister, egg throw-ing (a great favorite) bingo, horse shoes and singing has followed hamburgers, potato salad and all that good outing food. Prizes and ribbons were awarded upon completion of each event. More gatherings are planned for the future--we hope anticipated by all.

To bring our stay to an end at Warm Springs, the Student Nurses are putting on a variety show for all the patients and staff, on June 5, 1968 in the Warren Auditorium. The show is to be based around a T.V. show. Acting as hosts of this show will be Miss Versland and Mrs. Stepper. All the nurses will be participating in the various acts. Such things as vocal solos, a midgit dance, group singing and all time favorite Charleston and many other acts will highlight the evening. We encourage all to come.

The Student Nurses would like to take this opportunity to thank all the members of the Nursing staff, the doctors and the patients for helping to make our stay in Warm Springs a most enjoyable three months.

Miss Walden, S.N.
Miss Jenne, S.N.

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SUCCESSFUL CLOTHING PROJECT ONE YEAR OLD

May 10th was the first anniversary of our volunteer clothing project at Warm Springs State Hospital. This project is successfully being carried on mainly by the ladies from the First Presbyterian Church of Deer Lodge. They visit once a week and receive assistance from other interested volunteers who donate new or nearly new clothing from which the patients make their choices. An endeavor is made to properly fit and alter garments to enhance each individual's appearance.

In the not too distant future we plan to change the decor of our shop by having an attractive store front with signs etc., thus creating an "uptown" atmosphere.

Not only do we have clothing that is free for the asking, but often the individual has several choices of accessories to compliment the garments.